¶ By the King.

A Proclamation for cleanſing the Riuer of Thames of Shelues and Annoyances, and for ballaſting of Ships with the Sand and Grauell thereof.

WHereas the Kings moſt Excellent MAIESTIE, hauing taken into conſideration, that ỹ keeping of the Riuer of Thames nauigable, and free from Shelues and other annoiances, (being the principall Riuer of the Kingdome) is a buſineſſe that much importeth not onely the benefit of his Citie of London, but the harbour and ſafety of his Maieſties Nauie, and otherwiſe the common good of the Realme; out of his Princely care thereof, and according to a Statute in the ſeuen and twentieth yeare of King Henry the eight, made for preſeruation of the ſaid Riuer of Thames, hath been pleaſed by all good and effectuall meanes to prouide for the conſeruation of the ſame.

And conſidering that the cleanſing of the ſaid Riuer is a Worke of great burthen and charge, and that the ballaſting of Ships and other Veſſels riding and harbouring in the ſame, and the diſpoſing of the Grauell, Sand and ſoile thereof, is an intereſt properly belonging to his Maieſtie, and that a conſtant Vent and imployment of the ſaid Riuer-Sand and Grauell for ballaſting of Ships, would much encourage and aduance the enterprize of cleanſing and freeing of the ſame Riuer from the damages and annoiances wherewith of late times it is much ſtraitned and impaired, eſpecially neere to the ſaid Citie, by reaſon that all the Draines and common Sewers thereof doe fall into the ſame; his Maieſtie to that end and purpoſe in June laſt, by Letters Patents vnder his great Seale of England, did grant power and priuiledge to Thomas Smith Eſquire, his Maieſties Receiuer generall of his Dutchy of Cornwall, and others, for a certaine Terme of yeares, and vnder a yearely Rent to his Maieſtie, by them or their deputies, Agents and Workmen in all places within the ſaid Riuer (being to the damage or annoyance of the ſame) to digge and take vp the ſaid Grauel, Sand and Soile by ſuch wayes and meanes as they ſhould think fit, and to ſell and diſpoſe of the ſame, to, and for the ballaſting of all Ships and other Veſſels, which ſhould haue occaſion to vſe Ballaſt within the ſaid Riuer, at ſuch moderate Rates, as Riuer Ballaſt was then and formerly had been vſually ſold for, with ſundry other prouiſions therein made for the good of the ſaid Riuer, and benefit and accommodation of ſhipping there.

His Maieſtie therefore for the better execution of the ſaid Statute (which hath beene long neglected) and for the aduancement of a Worke of ſo great importance, as the cleanſing and conſeruation of the ſaid Riuer of Thames, according to the intent of the ſaid Statute, and his Maieſties

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ſaid Grant, And to the end that all his louing Subiects may take knowledge of his pleaſure therein, doth hereby expreſſely will and command that the ſame Statute, and the ſeuerall branches thereof, be hereafter duely obſerued and kept, of, and by all his Maieſties Subiects whom it may any way concerne, vnder the forfeitures and penalties therein contained.

And his Maieſtie doth hereby further ſtraightly charge and command all Maſters and Owners of Ships and other Veſſels whatſoeuer, that ſhall haue vſe of Ballaſt within the ſayd Riuer, That whileſt the ſaid Riuer-ballaſt may be had at the ſaid rates, and will as ſufficiently ſerue the turne, they doe not buy or receiue any Ballaſt for ballaſting their Ships or Veſſels within the ſaid Riuer, of, or from any perſon or perſons, other then the ſaid Thomas Smith, and other his Maieſties ſaid Farmours, vnleſſe that they ſhall not be able vpon conuenient requeſt to furniſh them with Riuer Ballaſt, in which caſe onely it ſhall be lawfull for the ſaid Maſters and Owners of Ships for that time alone and no longer, to prouide them elſewhere.

And his Maieſtie expreſſely forbiddeth all other perſons whatſoeuer, to ſell or vtter any the Grauell, Sand, or Soile of the ſaid Riuer for the ballaſting of Ships or Veſſels within the ſame Riuer, without the licence or conſent of his Maieſties ſaid Leſſees during their ſaid Terme, whom he hath bound to be prouided of conuenient Wharfes, and to haue alwayes in readineſſe ſufficient quantitie of Ballaſt in meet places of the banks of the ſaid Riuer for drying and draining of the ſame, whereby it may be fit for ballaſting of Ships or Veſſels that ſhall be laden with Clothes or other dry goods or Merchandizes, and to haue Lighters of all ſorts iuſtly gaged and marked for their bigneſſe and burthen, whereby the buyers of the ſame Ballaſt may not be deceiued in the iuſt quantitie and Weight thereof, and to deliuer the ſame Grauell and Sand vnto the ſaid Ships or Veſſels at ſuch proper places for taking in of the ſame, as may be fit, according to the ſeuerall burthens and qualities of the ſaid Shipping. And of this his Maieſties royall will and commandement hee expreſſely chargeth all his louing Subiects whom it may concerne, to take notice, and from henceforth to conforme themſelues thereunto, vnder the paines, penalties, and forfeitures, prouided by the ſaid Statute, and vpon ſuch further puniſhments as by the Lawes or Statutes of the Realme, or otherwiſe may be inflicted on ſuch offenders as ſhall be found to contemne or neglect the ſame.

And his Maieſtie doth hereby Will, require and command, aſwell all Iuſtices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bailiffes, Cuſtomers, Comptrollers, Searchers, and other his Officers and Miniſters, of, or belonging to the Port of London, or any the members thereof, as alſo the Maſter, Wardens, and Aſſiſtants of the Trinitie houſe of Deptford Strond, that they and euery of them in their ſeuerall offices and places reſpectiuely, from time to time hereafter, vpon the reaſonable requeſt of his Maieſties ſaid Farmours, their deputies or agents, be aiding, fauouring, and aſſiſting vnto them in the due accompliſhment of the Premiſſes, as they tender his Maieſties pleaſure therein. And this ſhall be their warrant in that behalfe.

Giuen at Our Court at Windſor the eight and twentieth day of Nouember, in the twelfth yeere of Our Raigne, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland.

God ſaue the King.

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